

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract, rejected claims 23-27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully disagree. In addition, the Examiner identified claim 28 as reciting allowable subject matter.

To expedite prosecution of this application, claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in claims 27 and 28, thereby placing claim 23 in condition for allowance. Further, claim 29 has been amended to substantially include the limitations previously recited in claims 27 and 28. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 is also in condition for allowance.

Additionally, to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-22, 27 and 28 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, the rejection of these cancelled claims is rendered moot, as such, Applicants do not acquiesce, admit or otherwise agree with the Examiner's rejection of these claims in view of the cited references.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also objected to the disclosure because it includes the title of the invention. Although the Examiner references MPEP § 608.01(b), this section does not appear to impose such a requirement. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn. If necessary, the Examiner is authorized to remove the title from the abstract sheet by Examiner's Amendment.

It is submitted that claims 23-26 and 29 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any

further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. PETAP002).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Douglass Thomas", written over the printed name.

C. Douglass Thomas

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